

Appl. No. 09/831,480
Atty. Docket No. 7368
Amdt. dated December 15, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 86-103, 105-106 and 113-117 are now in the case.

Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the mention by the Examiner that claims 91-99 and 104 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have amended independent claim 86 to include the features of a disposable cleaning substrate removeably attached to the support head, wherein the disposable cleaning substrate has a t1200 absorbent capacity of at least about 5 g/g and a liquid delivery system for providing a cleaning liquid to a surface to be cleaned on an area in front of the support head.

Applicants have amended independent claim 103 to include the features of a hand-held liquid sprayer is stored within a cage attached to the handle.

Applicants have amended independent claim 113 to include the features of a scrubbing strip that is releasably attached to the support head.

Applicants have amended independent claim 114 to include the features of a support head including a front, a rear and side edges and wherein the scrubbing strip is attached to one of the edges of said support head.

Applicants have added claims 115-117 to claim additional features.

Support for the subject matter in these claims is found in the specification, claims and drawings as filed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 103 and 105 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sims '744.

Applicants submit that claim 103 has been amended and now includes the features of a hand-held liquid sprayer stored within a cage attached to the handle.

It is therefore Applicants' position that this amendment overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 86-90, 102, 113 and 114 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloan '471.

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Applicants submit that claim 86 has been amended and now includes the features of a disposable cleaning substrate removeably attached to the support head, wherein the disposable cleaning substrate has a total absorbent capacity of at least about 5 g/g and a liquid delivery system for providing a cleaning liquid to a surface to be cleaned on an area in front of the support head.

Applicants note that Sloan discloses "a mop assembly and a disposable mop which includes a disposable plenum having a long tubular portion having a plurality of substantially uniformly spaced openings (See Col 2 at lines 57-69). In Sloan, "wax or cleaning fluid enters the disposable plenum and flow lengthwise along a long portion and through the spaced openings to cause a substantially even distribution of fluid to be applied to the sponge layer." (See Col 3 at lines 20-25)

As best understood by Applicants, the mop assembly of Sloan delivers a wax or cleaning liquid directly into the sponge layer of the disposable mop.

Applicants remind the Examiner that it is basic patent law that "[t]o establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation ... to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure." (Emphasis supplied) *In re Vaack*, 947 F.2d 488, USPQ 2d 1438 (Fed Cir. 1991).

It is therefore Applicants' position that Sloan does not teach or suggest a cleaning implement comprising a disposable cleaning substrate removeably attached to the support head, wherein the disposable cleaning substrate has a total absorbent capacity of at least about 5 g/g and a liquid delivery system for providing a cleaning liquid to a surface to be cleaned on an area in front of the support head.

It is also Applicants' position that Sloan teaches away from Applicants claimed invention since Sloan requires that the liquid be dispensed through the sponge layer of the mop rather than on an area in front of the support head.

Withdrawal and reconsideration of the rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

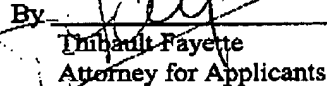
It is submitted that all the claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action on all claims is therefore requested.

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If the next action is other than to allow the claims, the favor of a telephonic interview is requested with the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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